8430--126 Street
Kew Gardens, 15, N.Y.
May 29th, 1944

Dear Harold:

It was good to hear from you. Naturally, our prolonged silences are signs of hard work, slavery, if you prefer the word, aggravation with editors, etc. But we do think of you and Lil very often even though we don't apply ourselves to the seat of a chair and say so.

There isn't toomuch to tell about us. We're producing fairly steadily for ESQUIRE and CORONET, and we're breaking our heads on a prospective radio show that has a fairly decent chance of going through. Outside of that, there is nothing really spectacular.

The desk job of yours in the offing must be something you've long dreamed about. As far as we're concerned, we think you well deserve it. Hope it's something to your liking--and comfortable.

No nasty cracks, but you're improving terrifically in your penmanship. Now we can read one word out of every three. The ratio used to be one out of every five. But all kidding aside, we'd give you 98% for your last letter.

So much for nonsense. We read over the short short of yours and think the following:

The material is excellent. As you admit yourself, the timing is poor. Secondly, you strike such a high emotional pitch at the very start of the story that it becomes impossible to sustain. Hence the reader gets the idea that your Marine's dialogue is repetitious. Third: The yarn would profit tremendously by cutting--down to 1000 at the very most. And as you approach the end, cut off the Marine's dialogue at the most pathetic point. Then, when Lil comes along, asks you what's up, and you reply nothing--the wallop is terrific.

What we'd like most, of course, is to spend an hour or so with you on "The Marine Who Didn't Land". That would clear up a lot. Maybe that will be possible, huh?

One of the Whynmans is coming down to Washington again toward the end of June, by the way. We'll be sure to look you up. Helen still talks about the swell time she had with Lil.

So much for now. Keep writing, and we'll be more

(over)

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P.S. Congratulations on your promotion!

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Maybe that will be good thing. Maybe you know so much more about it than we. We think it's good. Maybe you'd clear up this damn typewriter all day long sometimes seven days a week and when it comes to putting out a letter, we just never, never, never. Maybe that will be good thing. Maybe you know so much more about "typewriter phobia." Maybe all! Maybe you'd clear up with you on "the Marine who bitten by land." That would clear up the course. We mean, we'd like most, of course, is to speed up so what we mean.

It's time we've been in the pasp. It's just that we pound dilligent than we've been in the pasp. It's just that we pound this damn typewriter all day long sometimes seven days a week and when it comes to putting out a letter, we just never, never, never. Maybe that will be good thing. Maybe you know so much more about "typewriter phobia." Maybe all! Maybe you'd clear up with you on "the Marine who bitten by land." That would clear up the course. We mean, we'd like most, of course, is to speed up so what we mean.

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